

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS

In accordance with the provisions of the SC Pollution Control Act (SC Code Sections 48-1-10 *et seq.* 1976) and with the provisions of South Carolina Regulation 61-67, Public Entities that have received prior approval from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control are authorized to construct wastewater collection systems in accordance with the conditions and requirements set forth herein.



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Permit Number: SCG580000



1. Eligibility for Coverage

A “public entity” as defined by Regulation 61-67, which owns and operates a “treatment works” as defined by section 212 of the Clean Water Act, may apply for coverage under this general permit for the construction of wastewater line extensions. Treatment works includes entities that have only a collection system. Federal facilities that own and operate a treatment works for the collection and/or treatment of domestic wastewater may also apply for coverage under this general permit. For the purpose of this general permit such federal facilities will also be referred to as a public entity. To be eligible for coverage the public entity must:

- (a) Employ a full-time South Carolina registered professional engineer (PE) on staff or have a South Carolina registered PE on retainer;
- (b) Have full-time management and full-time inspection and maintenance staff, and an active inspection program for new wastewater collection line construction;
- (c) Have design criteria approved by DHEC. The criteria shall be at least as stringent as that used by DHEC (i.e., shall meet the design requirements of Regulation 61-67);
- (d) Have a set of standard specifications approved by DHEC for the type of construction projects eligible for coverage under this general permit;
- (e) Have no unresolved or chronic violations of a civil or criminal nature that have not been remedied to DHEC’s satisfaction; and
- (f) Maintain an updated map of the wastewater collection system. This map must be made available upon request and must include the following, where applicable:
 - i. Existing wastewater collection lines;
 - ii. Location and size of all pump stations; and,
 - iii. Location of all wastewater treatment plant(s) and connections to other wastewater systems.

2. Construction Projects Eligible for Coverage

- (a) This general permit is limited to the construction of the following domestic wastewater projects within the service area approved by DHEC at the time of application for coverage:
 - i. Gravity sewer line and force main extension(s) which are 16 inches in diameter or smaller;
 - ii. The rehabilitation, replacement, upgrade or expansion of existing pump stations projects with a design size of 2,000 gpm or smaller; and
 - iii. New pump station projects with a design size of 250 gpm or smaller.

- (b) This general permit is limited to those projects that are:
 - i. Designed and inspected by the staff engineer(s) and/or the PE(s) on retainer with the public entity; and,
 - ii. Owned (initial and final) and operated by the public entity approved for coverage under this general permit.
- (c) This permit does not include:
 - i. Alternative collection systems as defined in Regulation 61-67 (e.g. STEP system and grinder pump systems);
 - ii. Projects involving wastewater treatment facilities (new, modifications or expansions);
 - iii. Effluent outfall construction (gravity, force mains or pump stations) from wastewater treatment facilities;
 - iv. Projects where the initial owner is not the public entity approved for coverage under this general permit;
 - v. Sewer lines within new developments; and,
 - vi. Projects funded from South Carolina's State Revolving Fund or other funding agency requiring an individual construction permit from DHEC.

3. Application for Coverage

- (a) The public entity must first apply for coverage under this general permit by submitting the following documentation:
 - i. A completed application form provided by DHEC;
 - ii. Copy of the design criteria for the design of projects eligible for coverage under this general permit. This criteria must conform to Regulation 61-67;
 - iii. Set of standard specifications for the type of construction projects eligible for coverage under this general permit; and,
 - iv. Map delineating the boundaries of the public entity's service area or service area proposed for coverage under this general permit.

4. Approval of Coverage

- (a) Once the above information has been reviewed and approved by DHEC, a letter approving the public entity for coverage under this general permit will be issued.
- (b) This approval will be valid for a period of 5 years.

- (c) To renew coverage under this general permit the public entity must reapply for coverage as outlined under Section 3 above at least 30 days prior to the expiration of coverage approval. Coverage under this general permit shall continue for any public entity making a timely renewal request until a final decision is made by DHEC on the renewal request.

5. Notice of Intent (NOI) Requirements and Project Approval

- (a) Once the public entity is approved for coverage under this general permit, it may submit a NOI for each construction project eligible for coverage in lieu of an individual construction permit.
- (b) The NOI must be on a form provided by DHEC.
- (c) If the project is for additional flow or an increase in instantaneous flows the NOI must include letter(s) of approval from the owner of all downstream sewers and treatment facilities that are different than the public entity submitting the NOI.
- (d) DHEC will review the NOI and notify the public entity in writing approving or disapproving the project for coverage.
- (e) For projects in the eight coastal counties, the public entity must obtain certification from DHEC's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management that the project is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Program. This certification must be included with the NOI.
- (f) If coverage is denied for a project the public entity may apply for an individual construction permit.
- (g) No approval is required to place into operation any project approved for coverage.
- (h) The public entity shall notify the appropriate DHEC Environmental Quality Control Regional office within 5 days prior to initiating construction and within 5 days of placing the constructed facilities into operation.

6. State Navigable Water Permit

For projects crossing State Navigable Waters, the public entity must obtain a separate navigable water permit from DHEC unless the project meets the exemptions allowed by South Carolina Regulation 19-450.3.

7. Suspension of Coverage

Failure to comply with any of the requirements of this general permit and any conditions included in the letter approving the public entity for coverage under this general permit may result in immediate suspension of coverage. The suspension will remain in effect until the violation is addressed to DHEC's satisfaction.